

MEETING OF
THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy. Dover, Delaware, October 19, 2011, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman
William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman
William "Chip" Narvel, Jr., Secretary
L. Allen Messick, Jr, Treasurer
Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.

Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture
Michael Valenti, representing Steven Ditmer, Forestry Council
Lisa Embert representing Chip Flowers, Jr. State Treasurer
Robert L. Emerson

Absent: Kevin Coyle.

The following staff members were in attendance: Austin Short, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, and Acting Chief of Planning; Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, Scott Blaier, Cathy Mesick, Kathi Spangler, and Robin West.

Others in attendance: F. Michael Parkowski, Esq., and Ms. Erin Moore.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:34 a.m.

I. Current Situation Report:

Robin West informed the Board that we have a total of 1,092 farms in preservation districts totaling 155,693 acres, with a total of 686 farms under agricultural easements totaling 105,267 acres at a cost of \$187,051,464. For PDR 17, there are a total of 30 farms, comprising 1,438 acres, with a value of \$8,802,540. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 40 Forestland Preservation Areas comprising 2,878 acres. For the Forestland Preservation Area Easements, there are a total of 9 properties, comprising 872 acres, with a value of \$1,450,804.

II. Monitoring Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that Federal and non-Federal properties visited total 1,112 parcels out of 1,498 parcels. It cost \$30,000 to have NASS do such visits for us. We now do these visits on regular staff time.

III. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval:

1. M. Dempsey Expansion of the Corner Ketch District, ID#N-11-08-261C. After discussion, **Ed Kee moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the M. Dempsey Expansion of the Corner Ketch District, seconded by Chip Narvel, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

2. R. Dempsey Expansion of the Corner Ketch District, ID#N-11-08-261D. The paperwork has not been completed at this time, therefore, this expansion cannot be considered for eligibility and final approval.

3. Miller Expansion of the Norman G. Wilder District, ID#K-11-05-026L. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Miller Expansion of the Norman G. Wilder District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

4. K & M Callahan Expansion of the Westville District, ID#K-11-06-140D. After discussion, **Chip Narvel, Jr. moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the K & M Callahan Expansion of the Westville District, seconded by Ed Kee. Motion unanimously approved.**

5. Leon Miller Expansion of the Beaver Creek Farms District, ID#S-11-06-093J. After discussion, **Lisa Embert moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Leon Miller Expansion of the Beaver Creek Farms District, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**

IV. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto – Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee waived the right of veto for the above Expansions.

V. Public Comments – There were no public comments.

VI. Minutes:

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the September 14, 2011, minutes. No changes were necessary. The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **William Vanderwende moved to approve the September minutes, seconded by Chip Narvel, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

VII. Financial Highlights:

Howard Mesick presented the Financial Statement for the month of September 2011, informing the Foundation Board that we had, as of September 30, 2011, \$297,462.82 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. We received \$315.00 license plate income, and \$666.08 interest income. Expenditures for the month of September totaled \$39,555.71. After discussion, **Chip Narvel, Jr. moved to accept the September financial statement as presented, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

Chairman Garey asked about the progress of the Young Farmers Program. Austin Short informed the Chairman that we have had 85 inquiries so far, with 9 prequalification applications received and 1 Loan application received. It was suggested that a Young Farmers Program report be available at the next Foundation meeting.

VIII. Executive Session – Michael Parkowski indicated there was no a need for an executive session

IX. Purchase of Development Rights 16 County Selections

After distribution of PDR 16 list with the County Selections a presentation by Austin Short followed. Questions were asked and discussion continued. After discussion, **Ed Kee moved to approve the PDR 16 County Selections as presented by Austin Short, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**

X. Other Business:

Michael Parkowski asked that the County selections be split from the State selections on the lists that are given out to the public. The percentage of discount is different when the County selections are included and this creates some difficulties when explaining the discount to our clients. County selections are not based on discount but on the County selection process.

Secretary Ed Kee mentioned that the request for funding for Farmland Preservation is \$10M, which is \$7M for farmland preservation and \$3M for the Young Farmers Program.

XI. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation the meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on November 16, 2011 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert F. Garey
Chairman